

# Chapter 1

## Plan Overview

### Introduction

*[THIS SECTION WILL INCLUDE A FEW OPENING PARAGRAPHS WITH SIZZLE – THE GOAL WILL BE TO CAPTURE THE READER’S ATTENTION AND CREATE A SENSE OF URGENCY AND NEED FOR ACTION.]*

This update of the California Water Plan provides decision-makers, resource managers, water suppliers and all water users a forward-looking planning framework and a strategic water plan for the next quarter century with specific goals, objectives, findings and recommended actions that would:

- Provide adequate, reliable and sustainable water of suitable quality for all beneficial uses to the year 2030.
- Strengthen the State of California’s leadership, coordination, oversight and public investment for protecting and developing water resources and water infrastructure, our public trust assets.
- Recognize and manage water as a public trust asset.
- Provide State assistance to local water planners, agencies and governments, using recommended principles, to initiate and expand regional and inter-regional integrated resource planning.
- Encourage and support local and regional planners to implement diverse management strategies in their integrated resource plans.
- Assist local governments and agencies to improve the coordination of land use planning with water planning and management.
- Address serious gaps in data and analytical tools, improve and simplify public access to water information, and support investigations, research and development of promising new technologies.

[I have eliminated many of the original bullets shown here – there are just too many]

This Water Plan Update is based on the best available data and information. It also documents gaps in sufficiency of data and analytical tools. Prepared in a phased work plan, the Department of Water Resources will further quantify and improve estimates for future water supplies and uses presented in this report over the next two years. As a strategic plan, findings, recommendations and the action plan presented will be periodically reviewed and revised; DWR will publish five other Water Plan Updates during this Update’s planning horizon to 2030.

## Key Findings

1. **[Currently Number 14]** Given the current patterns of water use, California has sufficient resources to meet many, but not all, of its water demands with its present population. In general,
  - a. Except in multiyear droughts, many urban areas have sufficient supplies for existing populations. California's urban areas use about the same amount of water today as they did in the mid-1990's. They have accommodated a population growth of over 3.5 million Californians largely through increased water use efficiency and recycling.
  - b. In average years, most but not all agricultural demands are met.
  - c. Many rural residents on small water systems or wells experience limited water supply during droughts.
  - d. Over the past few decades, we have dedicated more water for restoring impacted ecosystems, but some requirements are not always met.
  - e. California continues to rely on an unsustainable overdraft of some of its groundwater basins.
  - f. Water quality is generally good but many areas face specific water quality problems.
2. **[Currently Number 15]** Based on three scenarios for 2030 considered for this Water Plan Update, namely, "Current Trends Continued", "High Efficiency" and "Resource Intensive", between 3.5 and 6 million acre-feet will be needed in average water years for an additional 17 million residents, to sustain economic growth and California's agricultural industry, to eliminate groundwater overdraft, and to meet environmental water objectives. It is important to note that this water can only be provided by a diversified portfolio of actions including significant amounts from programs to improve the efficient use of already developed water such as water conservation and recycling. This estimated range assumes (scenario details in Chapter 3):
  - a. 2 million - 3 million acre-feet for a projected population growth of 17 million more Californians; **[NOTE: Staff is working on this range.]**
  - b. 1 million - 2 million acre-feet for eliminating groundwater overdraft statewide (from California's Groundwater, Bulletin 118-03);
  - c. 0.5 million – 1.0 million acre-feet for meeting environmental water objectives; and
  - d. Agricultural water use stabilizes at about year 2000 level, assuming stabilizing irrigated land acreage and continued historical trend in

agricultural productivity and efficiency improvements (about 50 percent more crop production per acre-foot in the past 25 years). Other factors such as conversion of farmland to urban uses and international trade competition are predicted to limit increases in irrigated acreage. **[NOTE: Staff is working on this.]**

3. **(New Finding)** This Update identifies approximately 6 to 8 million acre feet (figures need to be verified by staff) of additional annual water supply or conservation savings from strategies discussed in this update and shown in the attached Implementation and Investment Guide.
4. **[Currently Number 17]** This Water Plan Update includes an Implementation and Investment Guide with 25 diverse resource management strategies that provide local, regional and statewide planners considerable investment choices and capacity, but they will require significant resources for implementation, including public funds. In addition to water management strategies like water use efficiency, recycling, storage and conveyance, this Plan includes strategies for recovering groundwater overdraft, improving water quality, watershed management, ecosystem restoration, urban and agricultural lands management, urban runoff and floodplain management, recreation; as well as economic incentives. A summarized version of the Implementation and Investment Guide is shown below:

Summarized version of Implementation and Investment Guide showing only three columns: Strategy, Potential Benefits (MAF) and Implementation Costs (\$)

Showing all 25 of the Water Management Strategies in the summarized table obfuscates the key information, which is the Potential Benefits of the main strategies. The 25 Water Management Strategies can be explained later.

## OTHER MAJOR FINDINGS (**Just a few**)

Show the other main findings, such as climate change (Number 12) or inadequacy of data and tools (Number 13), but do not include all the background information now included in “Key Findings.” Find another place for all that background information, such as future population, size of economy, place of agriculture, importance of diversity, etc. Including all of them under Key Findings just dilutes/obfuscates the KEY Findings.

## Key Recommended Actions

1. [**Currently Part of Number 1**] Invest \$1 billion per year of State funds, with matching federal and local funds (\$75 billion by 2030) to implement the actions in the Implementation and Investment Guide. [**No need to highlight CALFED separately since they are part of the Guide**]
2. [**Currently part of Number 1**] Continue to invest in implementation of the recommendations of the Water Desalination Task Force, the State Recycling Task Force, the Stormwater Quality Task Force, the Floodplain Management Task Force, and California’s Groundwater (Bulletin 118-03).
3. All the rest of the recommendations.